



THE Macdonald Farm Journal

VOLUME 18 No. 9

MAY 1958

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Dairy Price Support Programme Disturbing

Canadian dairy farmers were presented with serious problems of adjustment as a result of the introduction of margarine some ten years ago. These adjustments were made with a remarkable degree of success, and in this process the price support on butter made a constructive contribution. However, the farm dairy industry deserves most of the credit. Over the period from 1949 to 1956 Canadian production of milk increased by less than nine per cent, or just over one per cent per year. During this period the production of most other farm products increased two to three times as quickly. The rapid gain in population during this period — about twenty per cent — made the adjustment for dairy farmers easier. By 1957 production and demand were again in balance, and there was an obvious strengthening of the price of milk in all uses.

Over the past year the dairy industry has operated in a highly political climate. An unrealistically high support on dry skim milk was announced in April 1957. Recently the support for butter was raised six cents to 64 cents a pound, while the support for cheese was placed at 34 cents per pound. These increases were accompanied by a desirable downward adjustment in the support on dried skim milk.

Largely on the basis of high support on dry skim milk, which tended incidentally to provide some support for butter, cheese and other manufactured dairy products, farmers have responded by increasing milk production by ten per cent in the first three months of 1958, compared to the corresponding period of 1957. This fact should cause farmers some concern.

It seems safe to conclude that if 1958 milk production runs from five to ten per cent higher than 1957 the Government will be in serious difficulty with regard to its price support programme. Who will purchase the extra milk? Our increased population will take about three per cent more. Consumption per person will change negligibly. We can, if necessary, divert one or two per cent of our milk supplies into increasing stocks. Beyond these outlets for a five per cent increase, we are in trouble. We cannot expect any significant increase in exports of

dairy products except on the basis of subsidized exports or giveaways.

Dairy production is known to be very responsive to higher prices. This is what is happening in the current year. It is especially significant that the large increase in milk production is being realized with fewer cows. This clearly points to better feeding and herd management, and is very commendable. But any increase in production exceeding five per cent will put the dairy farmer in trouble. Even at present support levels the farm price of milk is not high. But so long as it is high enough to provide an incentive for a substantial increase of production which cannot be disposed of in commercial markets, then it is too high. This aspect of price support programmes is at the root of the present serious American farm problems. In that country, with supports too high, farm production and marketing are disrupted, arbitrary production restrictions are employed, export dumping is resorted to, and the taxpayer puts up four to five billion dollars per year.

Even in the face of increased production in the early part of this year, the federal government has increased price supports. These are now at a level which involves the danger of maintaining the expanded production. But not only the federal government and the dairy farmers are on the spot. Between them are the cooperatives and the Provincial Marketing Boards. If the worst comes, these groups won't escape. Their role in a price support is considerably less than it would otherwise be. In fact, in such an economy, they must concentrate on working for improvements in marketing methods and in production. Fortunately, there is a big job to be done in these areas — but not a very glamorous one.

Two elections in ten months may turn out to be more than the farm dairy industry can stand. It is to be hoped that dairy farmers and their organizations can come up with constructive solutions where politicians fail.

Our Cover Picture

Our cover picture this month shows high spring water in the St. Francis River at Drummondville, Que.

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There's Danger In Lightning

LIGHTNING strikes somewhere on the earth 6,000 times every minute, and every time it does an awesomely powerful interchange of electric current takes place between sky and earth. And again this year as in past years, we can expect injuries, death, and property loss, all caused by this most spectacular of Nature's phenomena.

Figures for the United States show that lightning causes 37% of all fires on farms, setting alight more barns, silos, and other farm buildings than any other single factor; it ranks second in cause of fires that destroy homes all over the country.

Lightning's death toll, far greater than caused by floods, tornados, hurricanes and other natural forces, is concentrated in rural areas; so are the more than 1500 lightning injuries which occur every year. It kills countless head of livestock, sometimes whole herds at a time. In one case in Utah, a single lightning stroke killed 504 sheep.

A secondary hazard is the great amount of damage done to electrical appliances and equipment across the country. All in all, lightning's dollar destruction toll, in the United States, is estimated at more than \$100,000,000 per year.

Lightning Losses can be Avoided

A large share of these losses can be avoided by proper knowledge of control methods. With a properly installed and grounded lightning rod system, your home, barns, silos, and other farm buildings are given virtually complete protection from lightning-caused fire or from structural damage by a "cold" bolt.

Moreover, a lightning arrester and capacitor is being widely used on farms to prevent damage to electrical appliances from secondary lightning. Universal adoption of this device in rural areas would cut down much of the minor losses that, when added together, comprise a huge annual loss.

The "Why" of Lightning

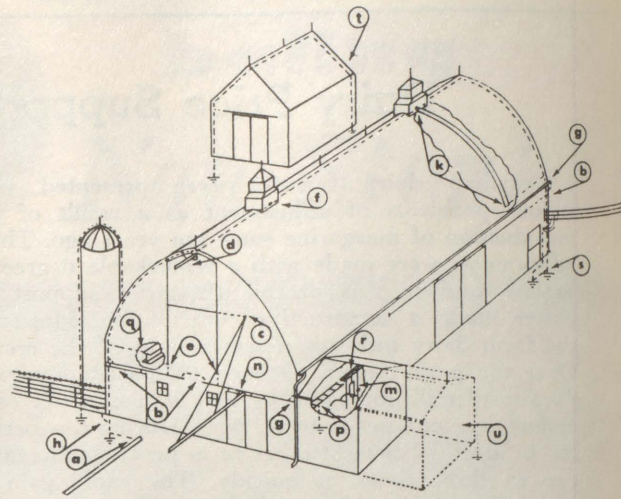
There is little purpose to the erratic course of lightning strikes, but actually, quite simple rules of physics govern them.

Lightning is the result of two opposite electrical charges leaping across space to be together. When storm clouds gather, they amass tremendous charges of electricity, usually negative. At the same time, induction from the clouds increases positive electrical charges in the earth.

These positive ground charges swarm over each other in a rush to gain the highest available point, so they can be as near as possible to the opposite charges in the sky.

When the pressure of the opposite charges straining to meet each other becomes strong enough, they leap across the barrier of non-conducting air between and collide with a terrific explosion.

The core of the lightning bolt is about $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch thick and



Here's how a barn, silo, adjoining and nearby buildings are protected against lightning damage by an adequate lightning protection installation. Metallic bodies on barn requiring interconnection or ground are shown by letters.

- (a) water pipe
- (b) door track
- (c) guy wire (connected to grounded track)
- (d) hay track carrier
- (e) metal track
- (f) ventilator
- (g) eave trough
- (h) wire fence attached to barn (connected or grounded independently)
- (k) ventilator exhaust pipe (connected at top and bottom)
- (m) stanchions (connected to water system)
- (n) litter carrier track (connected to door track which is grounded at far end)
- (p) barn cleaner (connected to water pipe and grounded)
- (q) "I" beam, interconnected
- (r) milking machine line (grounded to water pipe)
- (s) electrical system ground (interconnected with lightning rod ground)
- (t) nearby building protected

contains millions of volts of potential and as much as 340,000 of amperes of current. Around the core is a 4-inch thick channel of terrifically heated air. The accompanying thunderclap is caused by heating, ionizing, and exploding of air molecules.

The path of the stroke is in reality the climb, or the ladder of electrical ions, up the walls of your house, barn or silo. Since wood, concrete, brick, tile and other building materials are normally poor conductors of electricity, these substances hinder and resist the electrical flow.

This resistance is so great that, as the electrical charges finally manage to push through, friction develops terrific heat, which sets fire to inflammable materials and causes others to expand violently, crack, and fall apart. This is why buildings that are not protected by rods, conductors, and grounds, are so often destroyed totally.

The lightning bolt seeks the path of least resistance in its tremendously speedy surge. The bolt may smash through concrete or wood to jump to a wire which leads downward inside the structure. Then, the bolt may punch

through plaster and wood to leap from the wire to the water pipes. It is difficult to predict the path a bolt may take, whether inside or outside a building.

There is a sure way of controlling the bolt, however, and directing its course so that it dissipates harmlessly into the air or ground. This is through the installation of lightning rods, conductors, and grounds.

Here is the Lightning Protection Institute's "Master Checklist" for all farm lightning protection installations. All questions should have "yes" answers:

1. Are air terminals (rod or points) located on all prominent parts of every major building?

2. If air terminals are less than 30 inches tall, are they spaced within 20 feet of each other?

3. Do air terminals extend at least 10 inches above all ridges, chimneys, dormers, ventilators, or other roof projections?

4. Are the air terminals connected to the conductor cables in such a way that there are two paths from each rod to the ground?

5. Is there an adequate number of grounds for each building, under these requirements: (a) for single-ridge structures with no ells or tees up to 80 feet in length, two ground terminals; (b) similar buildings from 80 to 140 feet, three grounds; (3) similar buildings from 140 to 200 feet, four grounds, and one additional ground terminal for each 60 feet of ridge beyond 200 feet; (4) an additional ground for any ell or tee in a building; and (e) a conductor cable coursed over and perhaps a special ground for large dormers.

6. Do grounds extend at least 10 feet into permanently damp soil, or are there auxiliary grounds as specified by the manufacturer in the event of rock formations or sand?

7. Are ground rods of copper cable, copper-clad steel, or heavily galvanized steel at least $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch in diameter?

8. Is there a down connector at the point where a metallic water pipe or well casing enters the building?



This was a metal barn, with a simple grounding of the roof. Obviously, it was not properly protected against lightning. Arrows indicate the grounding cable which failed to carry the current away from the building.

(This is extremely important, and often neglected when running water is installed after lightning protection.)

9. Are metal hay carrier tracks connected to the lightning protection system? (Again, in the case of existing lightning protection systems, metal hay carrier tracks sometimes replace wooden ones, and the owner neglects to have the new tracks inter-connected. This, of course, invites trouble, for hay tracks follow metal water pipes as targets for lightning strokes.)

10. Are other metal bodies, such as gutters, downspouts, door tracks, litter carrier tracks, vent stacks, ventilators, electrical, radio, and telephone grounds, metal clothes lines, and other such items of metal interconnected in the lightning protection system?

11. Do radio and TV antennas, phone and electric service wires have properly sized lightning arresters?

12. Does the electrical system have a capacitor to absorb surges brought by secondary lightning?

Warning on Metal-clad Farm Structures

Hundreds of cases of complete lightning destruction to metal-clad buildings on farms prove that simple grounding of a metal-roofed or sided building does not protect the building from lightning damage, fire or loss.

Authoritative opinions of experts in the lightning protection and metal sheet producing fields bear out the fact that a metal-clad structure should have the same type of lightning protection system and installation as approved for buildings without metal roof or siding.

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Use the Right Disinfectant

**If you expect to kill germs in your barn
you must use the right disinfectant and
the right concentration**

By R. H. Wallace

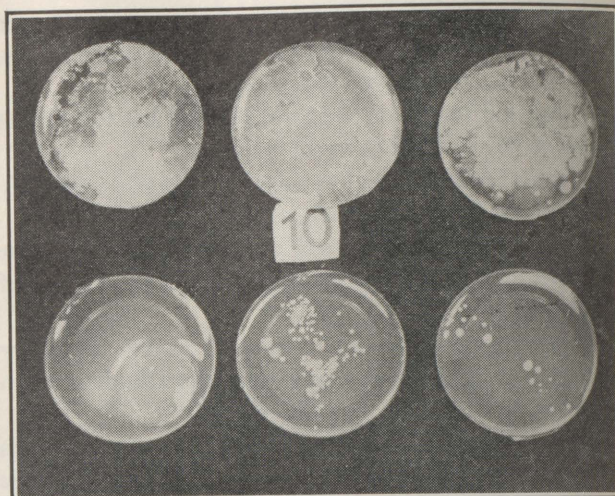
DEATH AND TAXES are about the only things we can be sure of today. How often do we hear this statement? But those who blithely quote this statement forget one thing that is every bit as sure. That is bacteria. These organisms are present on every surface exposed to the air. As individuals they are never seen — they are almost infinitesimal in size ($1/20,000$ of an inch long and only half as wide). Individually they can only be seen with the aid of a powerful microscope.

While a single bacterium may be invisible to the naked eye, the damage bacteria do is certainly not. The results of their work can be seen almost anywhere, even by those of us with the poorest sight. Most of the things bacteria do are harmless or even beneficial, but the damage they do can be very harmful. Bacteria are the culprits in most of the communicable diseases of humans and livestock.

Bacteria are single celled forms of life that are extremely hardy. They can remain alive under the most extraordinary circumstances. They reproduce by one cell dividing into two and this goes on at a phenomenal rate when conditions are right. At times they reproduce so quickly that in a relatively short period of time — say 24 hours — they will form a colony visible to the naked eye and containing literally billions of individual bacteria.

Because of their hardiness and rapid reproducing ability their control has become absolutely essential to our well-being. Controls of one type or another date back into history, but the real advances in bacteria controls have been made in the last 50 years. Behind recent advances has been the discovery and development of chemicals.

Keeping everything as clean and dirt-free as possible has long been known as the best means to prevent the spread of disease and germs from sick to healthy people. Burying



This shows what happens when the proper strength of disinfectant is used. The colonies of bacteria which show in the top row of cultures grew after the plate had been in contact with a floor before it was washed. The bottom plates show the few colonies which grew on the plate in contact with a floor after washing with a 10% lye solution.

or burning food scraps and garbage has long been the method followed to prevent it from becoming rotten.

The use of soap and plenty of elbow grease was once thought the best and indeed the only method of keeping surfaces and articles clean. But this is not enough. Now it is known that to do a proper job the use of chemical disinfectants is necessary. They, used according to directions, are the only things that will do an anywhere near efficient job of killing bacteria on a myriad of surfaces and in corners. There are many disinfectants on the market to-day and new ones are being developed all the time; new things are also being found out about the older chemicals.

Recent research work carried on at Macdonald College has revealed new facts about one of the most popular of

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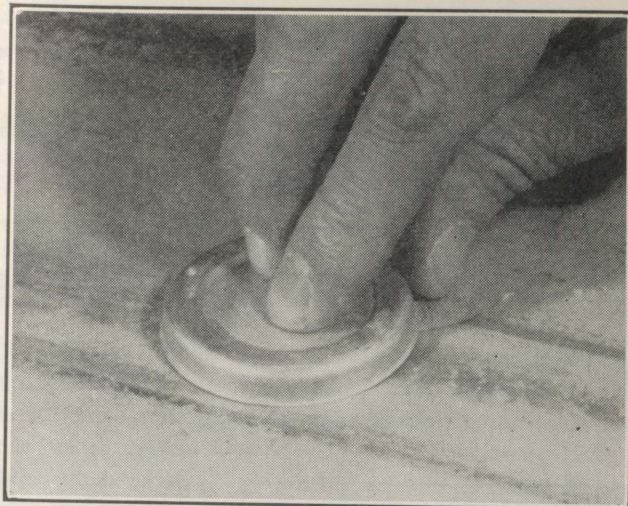
all disinfectants — ordinary household lye. A quarter century ago bacteriological studies led to conclusions that a 1.0 percent lye solution in water would kill bacteria in a liquid suspension. It was also considered that the same concentration would kill bacteria on such surfaces as benches, floors, walls and stanchions in farm buildings. This has become widely accepted among farmers and other groups of people.

The investigations at Macdonald College have indicated that such weak concentrations as 1.0 percent lye solution will not do. The experiment indicated that a 10.0 percent lye solution is necessary to do an efficient killing job on smooth surfaces, such as floors, walls, benches, etc.

In the experiment brick and vinyl tiles, in use as flooring, were washed with various concentrations of lye, from 1.0 percent to 10.0 percent, and then rinsed with sterile water. Similar tiles were also washed with water for comparison. Following this, nutrient agar (a substance in which bacteria will multiply very rapidly) was pressed against each surface after the washing. Bacteria developed into colonies in all cases, except where a 10 percent lye solution was used.

Further experiments carried out indicated that the addition of some detergents aided the effectiveness of lye in killing bacteria.

The next time you use lye to disinfect floors, walls or stanchions in your barn, use a 10% lye solution. And to be doubly sure of doing a good job, add a little detergent.



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Activities, Plans and Policies of the Quebec
Department of Agriculture*

Beef Sale Satisfies

A FINE, warm April 24th enabled the organizers of the Quebec Beef Cattle Association's eighth spring sale of breeding stock to move the ring out of doors and

away from the dark, damp and cold area inside the Arena building where it has been necessary to hold it in the past; and everybody approved the location. The warm sunshine, however, did not encourage the buyers to hurry their bids; auctioneer Art Bennett worked hard all afternoon to keep prices up at



Getting in the bids.

a reasonable level, and at that the sale average was a little below that of last year, with a few head fewer being offered this year. The 1957 average was \$371.23, whereas it worked out this year at \$367.50.

Seven Aberdeen Angus bulls sold for prices ranging from the top price of the sale, \$1000, down to \$275, for an average of exactly \$500. The top price went for Braemanor Farms' Lucy's Bandolier of Braemanor, bought by Aristide Cousineau, a new breeder who owns the Richelieu Valley Farm at St. Mathias in Rouville County. Prices for Angus females were from \$220 to \$700 for an average of \$379, with Charles Graham of Ile Perrot paying the top price for Juana Erica of Birch Bell, consigned by L. T. Porter of St. Andrews East.

Hereford males sold for an average of \$346.54, in the range from \$220 to \$500, two buyers, George Goggan of Howick and Harry Tremblay of the Federal Department paying the top prices. Goggan's purchase was Green Hills Larry, consigned by John Nichol & Sons, and the Department took Maplecove Beau Zinto, the property of A. R. Olney of Danville. Females, averaging \$334.28 sold at prices ranging from \$200 to \$450. A four-year old, Royal

Tone Domino Lass, owned by Nichol, took to top price and sold to R. Sauve of Alexandria, Ont.

Shorthorn bulls averaged \$355.77, with a range from \$225 to \$500. The top price was paid by two buyers: the Department of Agriculture for Saraguay Commando, consigned by Mrs. W. C. Pitfield of Saraguay, and Earl Watson of Scotstown, who bought Mrs. T. C. Stuart's Tutira Authority, both two-year olds. The top price for Shorthorn females (which sold for an average of \$319.37) was \$485, paid by Ross Edwards of Coaticook for a five-year old consigned by Mrs. Pitfield, Morprie Laguana (imp).

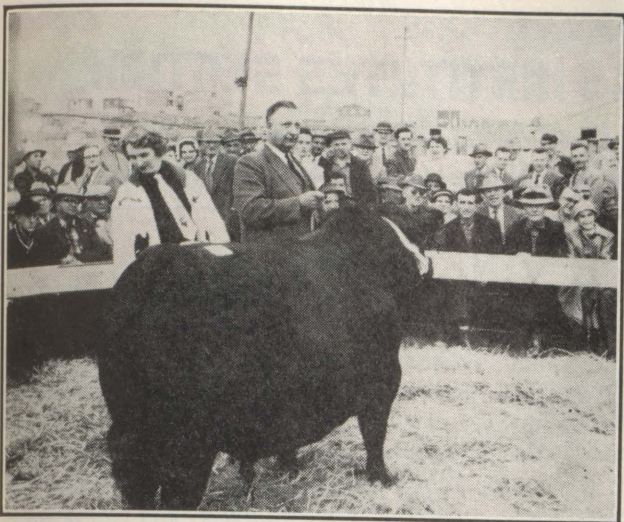
A few head of Herefords went to Ontario buyers, but apart from this the stock remains in Quebec, and most of it will stay in the Eastern Townships herds. The Production Service of the Federal Department of Agriculture, represented by Harry Tremblay, bought in each breed, with the intention of either lending bulls to breeders' clubs, or acting as buying agent for certain groups.

Stock Good — Prospects Also

The Quebec Department of Agriculture was represented at the sale by Armand Ouellette of the Livestock Division, who considered the stock offered for sale to be the best ever sold at Sherbrooke. He considered this an excellent opportunity for breeders to add high quality breeding stock to their herds, from among the best to be found in the province.



About 300 people attended the spring sale at Sherbrooke on April 24.



Aristide Cousineau holds his \$1000 purchase, while Mrs. McKellar takes a last look at the bull before he goes to his new home at St. Mathias.

Harry Tremblay was optimistic about the prospects for beef, telling the breeders out for the sale that in three or four years they should be in the chips. It had been a tedious task, building up a beef business in the past few years, but he was convinced that the corner has been turned.

It was announced at the outset that a consignor would have the privilege of withdrawing his animal from the sale should he be dissatisfied with the way the bids were running; and several took their animals out of the ring rather than let them go at prices which they considered did not represent the worth of the animal to them.

The sale was marked by the presence of a large number of agronomes and livestock fieldmen from many parts of the province, many of whom accompanied prospective buyers hoping to find just the right animal from one of the popular beef breeds to up-grade their herds. The continued success of this annual sale of pure-bred stock indicates that, in certain parts of Quebec at least, breeders

Classes Changed for Sherbrooke Winter Fair

The Directors of the Sherbrooke Winter Fair have revised the classification for market cattle for the 1958 Winter Fair. The market cattle will be judged according to breeds, namely Aberdeen Angus, Hereford and Shorthorn. In each breed there will be three sections namely: Small, Medium, or Large. The minimum weight will be 700 lbs. The following are the sections:

Section 1. — Aberdeen Angus. Small or light weight, minimum: 700 lbs.

Section 2. — Aberdeen Angus. Medium.

Section 3. — Aberdeen Angus. Large or heavy weight.

Section 4. — Hereford. Small or light weight. Minimum: 700 lbs.

Section 5. — Hereford. Medium.

Section 6. — Hereford. Large or heavy weight.

Section 7. — Shorthorn. Small or light weight, minimum: 700 lbs.

Section 8. — Shorthorn. Medium.

Section 9. — Shorthorn. Large or heavy weight.

The weights in each section will be established after the cattle are weighed, so that the number of entries in the sections for each breed will be fairly even.

Prizes in each section are: \$15, \$11, \$9, \$7, \$5 and \$4 for each additional entry.

are determined to raise the general quality of their beef herds.

• The largest and most effective co-operative organization wholly owned and controlled by the farmers of the Province of Quebec . . .

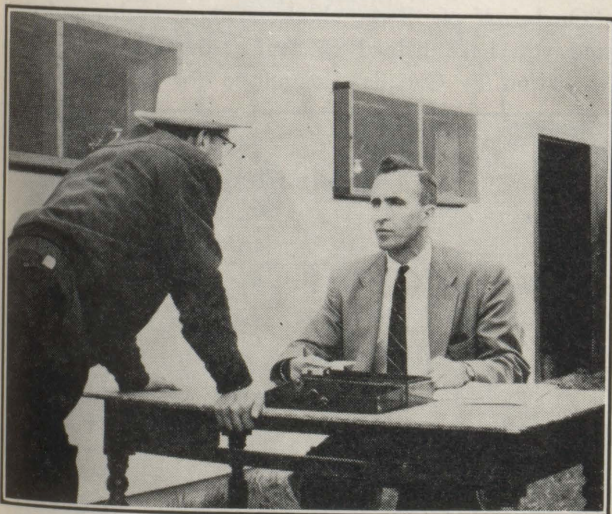
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LA COOPERATIVE FEDEREE DE QUEBEC

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After the bidding comes the reckoning: fieldman Don Robertson was pressed into service as cashier.



THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*and to matters of interest to them
Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes*

THE GRAPE VINE

By Helen David

One of our choice small fruits is the grape. With our extreme climate grape vines are hard to grow but nearly all families would like to have one in their own garden. With a little care this can usually be done.

The soil best suited for growing grapes is light, rich loam. If the drainage is not perfect naturally, it must be supplied. In preparing the ground, a hole should be dug at least two feet deep and wide, and the bottom filled in with small stones so as to secure drainage. The soil should be well enriched. In planting, the roots should be spread in a lateral direction, at least four inches under the surface.

After planting, the ground must be thoroughly firmed with the feet around the plant and a good watering given.

On receiving the vines from the nursery, they may consist of one or more shoots, but on planting them they should be cut back to two or three eyes or buds. When they start to grow, all the buds should be rubbed off except one, selecting the strongest and the one nearest to the ground.

Train this shoot perpendicularly to a stake and in the fall, when the leaves drop, cut back to about a foot from

the ground. When the vine starts the following year, rub off all eyes or buds except two of the strongest and nearest to the ground. These will form two canes and should reach a height of several feet.

In the fall, when the leaves drop, again these canes should be cut back to about four feet, and laid down on the ground. When cold weather sets in, cover them with four or five inches of leaves or litter.

In the spring, before the buds swell, the canes should be trained horizontally, one to the right, the other to the left. Upright growths will spring from the canes thus laid down, not more than eight should be allowed to grow. They should be selected so as to be about a foot apart. The height of these upright growths may be regulated according to the height of the arbour, fence or building where they are planted. Vines thus treated may be allowed to produce a few bunches the third year, and by the sixth year these vines should have several baskets of grapes.

When this article reaches its readers, our gardens and crops will be well advanced. Let us not forget our basic concern, Soil Conservation, in all its aspects, and see to it that we practise it in all our "tilling of the soil". And I wish you all a fruitful season.

OFFICE HAPPENINGS

Mrs. Watson, Citizenship convenor, says reports that have come in to date indicate last year's returns from the UNICEF projects were the best yet. (She will be giving figures in the Convention report). These were, as you know, the Hallowe'en Shell-Out and Greeting Cards.

This "thank you" from the Canadian Committee for UNICEF has been received at the Q.W.I. office:

"On behalf of all the children whose health and well being you have helped to assure, the United Nations Association in Canada Committee for UNICEF have



\$1

enough powdered milk to give 70 children a large glass of milk every day for a week.



\$5

enough antibiotics and sulfa drugs to cure 17 children of trachoma, infectious eye disease.



\$10

enough penicillin to treat 200 children for yaws, widespread tropical crippling.



\$25

enough BCG vaccine to protect 2,500 children from tuberculosis, world's greatest disease killer.

PROVINCIAL CONVENTION

June 24 - 27

Board Meeting all day Tuesday, June 24
Convention opens Wednesday morning, June 26.
Closes Friday, at noon.

asked me to extend to the Quebec Women's Institute our most sincere thanks for your gift to the United Nations Children's Fund. We are most grateful to you for sharing our interest in the Fund and hope that you will convey our thanks to all who made this gift possible".

Details of the FWIC Citizenship project came in another letter arriving at the office. Sen. Wilson has approved the suggestion that this be an essay on "How Can I Train My Child to be a Citizen of the World". The essays must not be more than 1000 words in length, type-written on one side of the paper, and in the Q.W.I. office by the first of February, 1959. The name of each writer, her address and name of Institute must be attached on a separate slip of paper. The five best from each province are to be sent on for the FWIC competition; the prize, a trophy (silver rose bowl) donated by Sen. Wilson. (Ontario with her large membership may send ten).

The Canadian Spool Cotton Company is offering to make available their book "Quilts", free of charge to any Institute planning an entry in the craft section of the Tweedsmuir Competition. This is the book mentioned by the National Committee in the directions sent in the early spring to all branches. Write the Q.W.I. office if you want a copy. We all appreciate this generous offer.

Lady Coomaraswamy, ACWW Vice-president, will be the featured speaker at this year's Convention. Her husband was recently appointed High Commissioner for Ceylon in Canada and they are now residing in Ottawa. We are very fortunate to be able to secure this gracious and able woman for our program.

Ninetieth Birthday

Mrs. Fred Lusk, is the former Annie Scott, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. M. Scott of Lakefield, Que. She was educated in local and Lachute High Schools and was a teacher for many years.



She married the late Fred Lusk, Luskville, in 1899 and still resides on the same farm, with her three sons who carry on the family property. Mrs. Lusk, who is very active, does all her own housework and in summer cares for a large vegetable garden and flower garden, the latter one of the most beautiful in the countryside.

In 1916 she joined the Breckenridge Women's Institute. Since then she has served in many capacities in her own branch and county and in 1925 became the third W.I. member to hold the office of Provincial President. She held this position for two years. Mrs. Lusk has always retained her interest in the Institute and is still an *active* member of her own branch.

She has also served for 15 years as a former president of the United Church Women's Association, taught in the Sunday School and taken an active part in all its undertakings.

On March 14th, Mrs. Lusk celebrated her 90th birthday. Members in her own county of Gatineau gathered to do her honour. Mrs. Ellard represented the Q.W.I. and presented a bouquet of red roses with the good wishes of every Institute member in the province. Many other gifts were received by Mrs. Lusk and a telegram from Prime Minister Diefenbaker.

Everyone who knows her marvels at her keen mind and in her own words this is what she still hopes to see: "The day when education will be comprehensive in leading us to God, and giving us a greater appreciation of rural life and agriculture, which in its own good time will lead us to peace and prosperity for everyone".

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The Month with the W.I.

Where are the stories of your safety projects? Now that it is Spring, we should get down to "brass tacks" and really work on them. One branch is going in the right direction in asking for more signs along the highway. Another mentions stop signs for school buses. Keep working!

Congratulations on the many new members mentioned this month. Don't forget to keep the old ones interested too. And — don't lose those valuable radio and TV contacts. We are sure to need them in the future.

Bonaventure: *Black Cape* enjoyed hearing Miss Willett, who taught in Germany, describing the countries she had visited. *Marcil* and *Port Daniel* joined in making the presentations for the School. Two Whist Parties were held to support the hot lunch project, successfully carried on. Donations were made by *Marcil* to the Q.W.I. Service Fund and the local Agricultural Society. *Matapedia* welcomed two new members and appointed chairmen for the School Fair and the Garden Festival. At *Port Daniel* 15 members answered the rollcall by naming one of the 14 petitions mentioned in the Collect. Cotton was donated to the Cancer Society. *Restigouche* had Mrs. Gregoire, President *Matapedia* Home and School Association, as guest speaker on "Education".

Brome: *Abercorn* heard a talk on Welfare & Health, and sent linen to the Cancer Society. A quilt is being made. (Correction from last month: Dance netted nearly \$50, not \$100). *Austin* distributed seeds for the School Fair and donated a "Mary Maxim" sweater for the annual bazaar. *South Bolton* donated \$10 toward a hot-lunch program and held a card party.

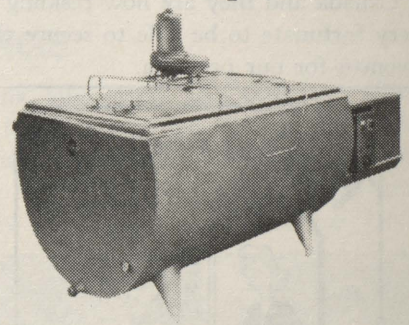
Chat-Huntingdon: *Aubrey-Riverfield* had a paper, "I Tried to do the Right Thing", a poem "A Laugh is Like Sunshine" and a quiz on a turkey. Another quiz was held on photos of W.I. members, following their display. Proceeds from the sale of a quilt were voted the Barrie Hospital. This branch is working to prohibit dumping of garbage on river banks and side roads. *Dundee* heard some impromptu speeches given by their members and had a demonstration of pillowcase lace. Aprons were donated to be used as prizes (when needed). *Franklin Centre* had a demonstration of pillow cases made from two 25-lb

flour bags, with contrasting hems. Proficiency prizes, amounting to \$10, will be awarded this year and the project will be a \$50 bursary to the pupil with highest standing. *Hemmingford* saw pictures and heard a commentary on California. The demonstration was on making a child's chair seat from a Montreal Telephone Directory. The School Board and Chamber of Commerce are being approached to have proper warning signs regarding passing stopped school buses. *Howick* finished two quilts and sold them. This branch, in co-operation with *Aubrey-Riverfield*, sponsored the County Public Speaking Contest in the *Howick* High School. *Huntingdon* had the Rev. Mr. Grant as guest speaker and distributed seeds to the



Some of the Abbotsford members with their waffle weaving frames. In the back row, Mrs. G. Coates, Mrs. D. Needham, Mrs. F. Crossfield. Front row, Mrs. P. Gould, Mrs. A. Buzzell, Mrs. F. McNab, Mrs. C. C. Whitney.

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Prize-winners in the Cleveland W.I. Mrs. Gordon Healy, president (left) and Mrs. H. Taylor, past president (centre) have a record of perfect attendance for nine years. Mrs. E. G. Fletcher (right) also a former president, had a perfect attendance record last year.

school children. A gift was presented to the retiring president, Mrs. Ferry. *Orms town* heard talks and poems. Assistance was given to the local hospital and a White Elephant sale was held.

Compton: *Bury* renewed membership in the CAC, distributed pamphlets on Agriculture and read excerpts from the Highway Safety Rules. A box of clothing was given a needy family. The talk was on "Haunted Houses", some of the older homes in *Bury* being mentioned. *Brookbury* made plans to hold a dance and card parties. New curtains, a flag and picture of the Queen were ordered for the W.I. Hall. *Canterbury* held a quiz on Canada. A donation was made to the Red Cross and a paper drive held. *Cookshire* heard a high school pupil give a talk on "Brotherhood" and another speaker on "Gardening". Proceeds of a food sale were given toward a scholarship. Knitting has been done for the Unitarian Service, 13 squares made for WVS and three consignments of cotton to the Cancer Clinic. *East Angus* sent 25 lbs. of cotton to the Cancer Clinic. *Sawyer ville* held a large food sale and discussed a card party to raise funds for School Fair prizes.

Gatineau: *Aylmer East* had papers on "Importance of Education in the Home" and "Adventure on the Spice Shelf". This branch makes a donation of \$4.95 each year to the South Hull School Library to purchase the Annual Edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica Junior. *Eardley* discussed and answered a questionnaire on apple juice, and heard a reading on "A Man's Impression of the W.I." Plans were made for the 40th anniversary party. *Lakeview* is compiling their branch history. A rummage sale is being planned. *Lower Eardley* heard a talk on

Retarded Children. A box of clothing was given to a needy family and knitting is being done for the Unitarian Service Committee. *Rupert* heard a paper on "Why I Love Canada". *Wright* heard a paper, "Bread of Life", distributed literature on Milk and Box Lunches and reviewed the "Consumer's Guide". A letter was sent to the Quebec Liquor Commission objecting to the Sunday sale of liquor in the hotel in this municipality.

Jacques Cartier: *Ste Annes* heard a talk on gardening, with slides, given by Mr. Roht of Macdonald College. Flower seeds were distributed, the results to be judged in the fall. The annual spring tea and food sale was most successful.

Missisquoi: *Cowansville* had a quiz on the Handbook. Each member in the branch brought the smallest antique object in her home and told about it, followed by a discussion. At *Dunham* Mrs. Hooper gave a talk on the Leadership Training Course and displayed articles made there. *Stanbridge East* sent \$10 to the Retarded Children's School in Sherbrooke and flower seeds were bought for the school children. Three renewals were sent in for Federated News. Proceeds from the 5-cent cake were turned over to the Memorial Hall Fund.

Papineau: *Lochaber* welcomed three new members and received a letter of thanks for their contribution to CARE.

Pontiac: *Bristol* knit 10 sweaters for Unitarian Relief and sent six boxes of used clothing to Hull. Each member

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SUN LIFE OF CANADA

Coast to Coast in Canada

was asked to grow a pot of Petunias for the Memorial Park. Clarendon donated \$10 each to the two village cemeteries, \$5 to the Children's Home and dish towels to the Shawville High School. *Elmside* sent 14 articles to the baby ward in Shawville Hospital. *Fort Coulonge* welcomed some new members. Donations were given to the polio fund and the contribution made to the Service Fund. Shawville donated \$25 to Guide Mothers' Association and the same to the Boy Scouts. Two needy children have been supplied with hot lunches for a month. *Stark's Corners* answered the rollcall with suggestions for next year's programme. Wyman observed one minute's silence in memory of Miss Edith Edey, a charter member who passed away in February. The cabin for the rink has been completed.

Quebec: Valcartier had a small meeting and made arrangements for the Red Cross Drive.

Richmond: *Cleveland* had a contest, "Something New Made from Something Old". An applique quilt has been made (the top) and is now being quilted. Two prizes were donated to the County Fair and \$10 to the Red Cross. Prizes were also presented to two members with perfect attendance for nine years. *Dennison's Mills* held two card parties which netted \$33.45. A gift was presented to the past president and a contest held on fancy sandwiches. *Melbourne Ridge* netted \$10.50 from a variety sale and reports a hat-making competition was fun. Seeds have been received for the School Fair. *Richmond Hill* donated \$5 to fair prizes and distributed flower seeds to members for the fall competition. A cup and saucer will be given every member with a perfect attendance for the next year. A Red Cross donation was \$5 and a sale brought in \$4.35. *Shipton* realized the sum of \$27.15 from three card parties.

Rouville: *Abbotsford* held a successful food sale. Woven articles made by 16 members at their recent course were displayed, 23 in all.

Shefford: *Granby Hill* had a discussion on the lunch room at the local school. A quilt was given to a member leaving the community and a donation was made to the Student Council. This branch is working on quilts (A Tweedsmuir entry?) *Granby West* will be the hostess group for the county meeting. Garden seeds will be distributed to the members. *Waterloo-Warden* netted \$7.27 from a white-elephant sale and held a contest.

Sherbrooke: *Ascot* made plans for courses in Textile Painting and Metal Craft. Plans are underway for their 40th anniversary. Two new members were welcomed. *Lennoxville* donated \$10 to the Sherbrooke Hospital and renewed the group membership in the CAC (\$5). *Milby* is having a course in Millinery.

Stanstead: *Ayer's Cliff* observed two minutes of silence in memory of a departed member. *Beebe* had a contest, "Pay Your Age", which brought in \$8. *Hatley* reports \$30 cleared at a card party. *North Hatley* members turned in their "Holiday Envelope" — a dime for each

of the ten holidays during the year. *Way's Mills* donated \$15 to the Dental Clinic.

Vaudreuil: Harwood welcomed four new members and two members received attendance awards. A gift was presented the retiring president and \$10 was voted to the Salvation Army Hostel Drive. The branch is working on a Village (Tweedsmuir) History.

Cages Versus Pens for Laying Hens

Canadian poultrymen have recently shown considerable interest in cages for laying hens to increase efficiency and reduce costs. But this method of housing the laying flock is no cure-all for the problems of the egg producer, says T. M. MacIntyre, senior poultry husbandman at the Canada Department of Agriculture Experimental Farm, Nappan, N.S., where laying hens have been housed in individual laying batteries for a number of years.

There are two types of laying cages in common use, individual cages which hold one bird, and community cages which may house anywhere from 10 to 25 birds per unit. These cages may have a single, double, or triple arrangement. Double and triple deck arrangements allow more birds to be kept in a given floor area but complicate the cleaning problem, since the droppings must be removed daily. The single decks battery, on the other hand, eliminates the need for frequently removing the droppings.

Results at Nappan have shown that broodiness is less of a problem when hens are kept in batteries. If the egg baskets are kept free from dust dirty eggs are rare. Hens cannot develop the habit of eating eggs if the cages are correctly constructed. Death losses may be reduced by constant culling, while lice and mites are easily controlled.

The disadvantages noted include heavy investment per hen, slightly higher labour requirements, an increased fly problem in hot weather and difficulty in controlling ventilation, particularly where three deck batteries are used.

Standard poultry houses may be used for caged birds, and heat is not necessary other than to prevent frozen water pipes during protracted cold periods.

Light and heavy breeds and crosses have all been successfully kept in cages. However, there are indications that some breeds and strains do not do as well in cages as in floor pens.

Feeding caged layers presents no problem. Hand or automatic feeding may be successfully employed. The all-mash or the mash-grain systems of feeding may be used. The feeding system should be designed with economy or labour in mind, most feeders favour the more simple all mash system. Sufficient limestone and grit should be included in the ration to satisfy the birds' requirements.

The Farm and the Market

Livestock Producers Well Off

Livestock producers are in a more favourable position than they have been for many years. Not only are prices higher than they have been for several years but feed prices have been staying stationary or dropping. At the start of April the hog-barley ratio at Winnipeg was 27 compared to 24.6 a year earlier; and the hog-feed ratio at Toronto was 9.5 compared to 9.0 a year earlier. These compare to long-time averages of 20.2 and 7.9 respectively. The ratio is the number of bushels of No. 1 feed barley or hundredweights of mixed feed that are equal in value to 100 lbs of grade B 1 live hog plus federal premium. The higher the ratio the more favourable the situation is for the livestock farmer.

New Floor Prices

The first set of prices established under the Agricultural Stabilization Act have been announced. They are:

Hogs — the working price support for hogs to be in effect for the next year is \$25 per 100 lbs. for warm dressed weight Grade A carcasses basis Toronto with appropriate differentials for other public stockyards.

Wool — the price of wool will be supported by deficiency payment at the level of 60 cents per pound for wool grading Western Range Choice 58/60's half blood staple F.O.B. Toronto, and appropriate rates for other grades except rejects. Effective for one-year this is approximately 110 percent of the base price of 54½ cents per pound for sheep's wool.

Mandatory floor prices in effect for products for which the government has not announced any special floors as yet are: Cattle — \$17.50, per cwt for good steers basis Toronto; Butter (1st grade) .48¢ a pound at Montreal; cheese (1st grade cheddar) — .25¢ in Ontario; Eggs (grade A large) — .42¢ a dozen basis Montreal; lambs (good) — \$19.55 a cwt., basis Toronto.

Lower Support Prices in U.K.

The 1958 annual farm price review by the U.K. government will mean a reduction of about \$52 millions in price guarantees and production subsidies. Decreases are to be made in payments on milk, eggs, hogs and wheat, which will more than offset higher price guarantees for cattle and a bigger subsidy on nitrogenous fertilizers.

Abattoir for N.S.

Nova Scotia farmers have just completed raising \$450,000 to establish a co-operative abattoir in the Halifax area. It climaxed a long campaign by 500 canvassing farmers. The campaign for funds was conducted on an understanding with the N.S. government that they would put up \$3.00 for each dollar farmers raised. The farmers met the challenge in providing the required amount of money despite only fair agricultural prices and a weak market for forest products during the past season. With the building of a modern federally-inspected meat packing plant, Newfoundland will soon be the only province not to have one.

One potent development since the start of the canvassing campaign has been an acceleration of livestock production in Nova Scotia. The 500 farmers who went out to canvass apparently convinced themselves that the new plant would not be a success or be able to benefit the farmers unless more livestock were produced in the province.

The report of the Bureau of Statistics for March shows that N.S. farmers bred 11 percent more sows in that month than they did a year ago. This compares with a Canadian increase of 5 percent in March and a decrease of 2 percent in New Brunswick.



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Our Canadian heritage is such a precious thing that parts of it should be preserved. Time is passing. Will we be able to tell our grandchildren the stories our grandparents told us? An Indian graveyard lies unnoticed on a river bank. The nearby tan yard goes unmarked, pioneer records are scattered and lost, early furniture is sold at rubbish prices to antique dealers, and a pioneer cemetery is covered with a growth of briars and aspen.

In 1898, Brome County started to preserve its past in a Historical Museum in the Paul Holland Knowlton Memorial Building, built in 1854 and which served as an academy until the museum was established. Here are housed documents going back to the time of George II, and among the later items are many First War relics, including a German Fokker airplane.

Stanstead County has the Old Stone Schoolhouse, and exhibits there and on the second floor of the town hall tell the tale of home and country life a century and more ago.

Compton County is organizing an Historical and Museum Society due to the interest of Mrs. George

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Parsons, and of the Women's Institute in publishing the need of preserving records and the things that made up the old way of living. A pioneer cemetery is to be restored, and it is hoped that eventually a museum will be founded by the English and French speaking residents.

Mr. Struthers from the Stanstead

County Historical Society was out for a meeting at which he described the Stanstead Society and told of the early history of the district. The "roads" throughout the county were the waterways. Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River were the most popular routes, followed by Lake Memphremagog, then the St. Francis and Eaton Rivers and by land to

the Connecticut River. The Chaudiere River, Lake Megantic, and Dead River were also much travelled. Many of our present-day roads follow these same routes. We never think, as we travel today, that we are following trails first blazed by Indian war parties (as in the 1704 raid on Deerfield), or by hunting parties of Indians, or by American soldiers on their way to attack Quebec in 1775. After 1784 came the pioneers, and the United Empire Loyalists. Other settlers from the United States and the British Isles came in the early 1800's, followed by French from France and from French Quebec.

By 1832 there were six saw mills, two grist mills, a carding and a felling mill in Eaton Township, the first settlement of any size in Compton County.

Possibly the first donations to the Museum will be those which were displayed by the Women's Institute at the Fair two years ago. I have an Atlas with a map of Canada marked off in Indian Territories, with no sign of provincial boundaries. The first Communion Set used in the district would be an interesting addition.

So much for the past — but what of the future? The spring remained

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cool and the young clover was tipped with frost each morning. Plants had to stay in the house, overflowing in their abundant growth, to await warm enough weather for planting out. The cattle were late getting out too.

The Landrace-Yorkshire cross shows signs of being a lift to hog breeders in this vicinity. A good sized litter

that gains fast and shows evidence of good grade is the outcome of this cross.

I'll be seeing you — perhaps some-day we'll meet beside an Indian trail for a picnic.

Sincerely,
Wally.



THE COLLEGE PAGE

MACDONALD COLLEGE FARM DAY

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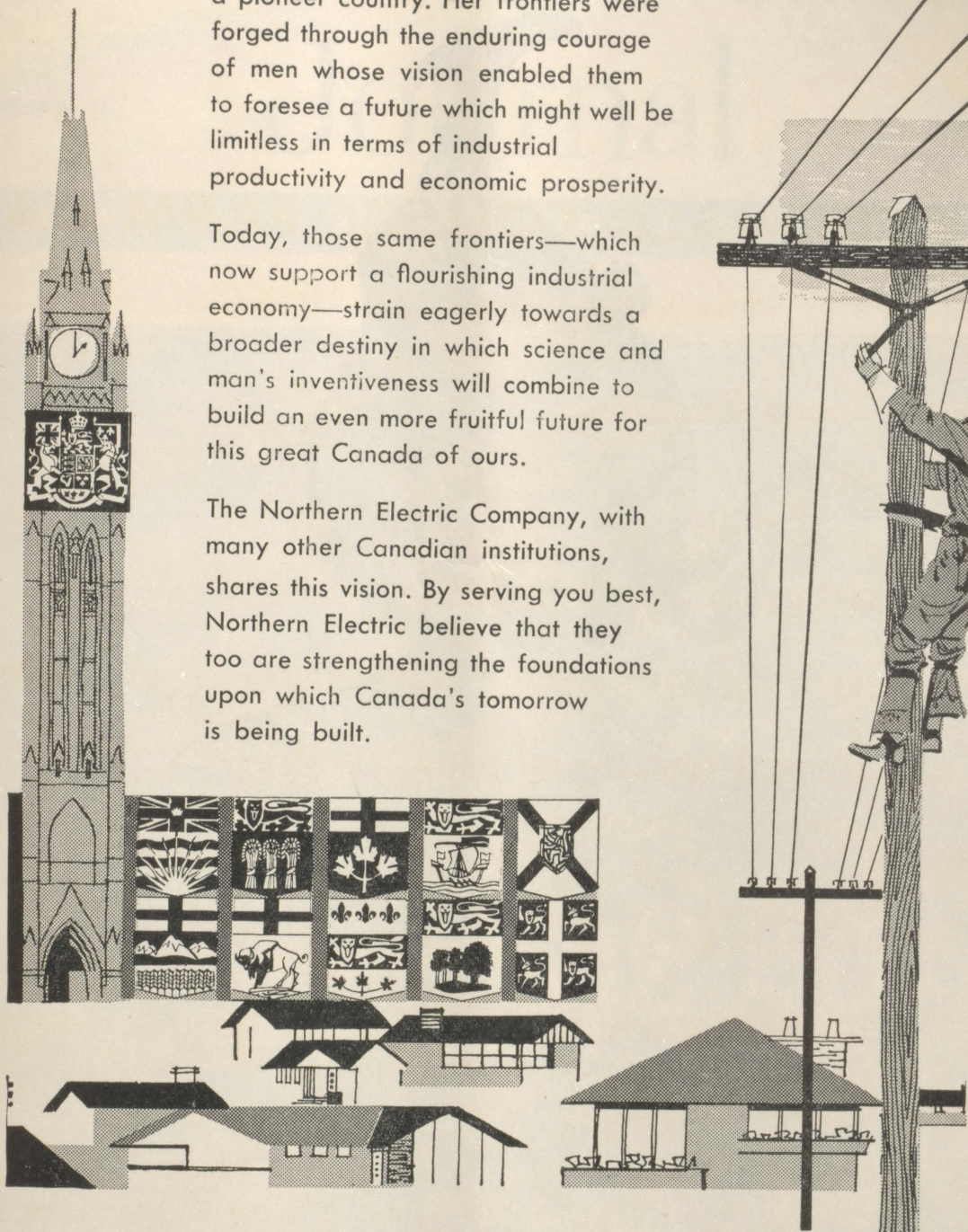
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